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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BETTON, TIMOTHY E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1627

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/11/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/573,353	Applicant(s) MEHTA, JAY LAL	
	Examiner TIMOTHY E. BETTON	Art Unit 1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 24 and 26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Claim(s)

Claims 1-18, 20-23 and 25 are cancelled. Claims 24 and 26 are withdrawn. Claim 19 is pending further prosecution on the merits.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' Remarks filed on 27 August 2009 has been acknowledged and duly made of record.

Applicants' purport that the sole reference (Robl) in the previous 103(a) does not adequately support and/or suggest the claimed invention as disclosed in sole claim 19, because applicants allege that Robl does not specifically teach the combination where candesartan and rosuvastatin are administered concomitantly in the treatment of atherosclerosis.

Applicants' arguments are considered but are not found persuasive because the sole claim 19 discloses comprising language which reasonably contemplates and encompasses the teachings of Robl. Robl contains each and every essential element of the invention. Robl is directed to the treatment of variable lipid disorders including atherosclerosis.

As disclosed on page 6 of the previous action in the 3rd paragraph, the scope and content of the current invention is fully encompassed by Robl's finite listing of actives. Applicants' purported preclusion of all other active agents in view of a distinct combination featuring exclusively candesartan and rosuvastatin is not adequately disclosed in the sole claim 19. The claim contains comprising language which is not exclusive. The one of skill would reasonably interpret claim 19 to importantly contain candesartan and rosuvastatin among other such classes of agents utilized for treatment for the same general disorders. Spectrum therapy is well-known

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and in real-world practice. The complexity atherosclerotic disorders require spectrum therapy which is described in the same 3rd paragraph of page 6.

For the reasons already made of record, the previous rejection is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robl (USPN 6,620, 821).

The incurrent and instant claim cites thus:

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of treating or reducing the extent of atherosclerosis in a warm-blooded animal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a combination comprising

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candesartan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and rosuvastatin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Robl teaches compounds of the following structure are HMG CoA reductase inhibitors and thus are active in inhibiting cholesterol biosynthesis, modulating blood serum lipids, for example, lowering LDL cholesterol and/or increasing HDL cholesterol, and **treating** hyperlipidemia, dyslipidemia, hormone replacement therapy, hypercholesterolemia, hypertriglyceridemia and **atherosclerosis** as well as Alzheimer's disease and osteoporosis.

With regard to an **effective amount of a combination comprising**, Robl teaches [a] preferred oral dosage form, such as tablets or capsules, will contain the ACE inhibitor or AII antagonist in an amount within the range from about 0.1 to about 500 mg, preferably from about 5 to about 200 mg and more preferably from about 10 to about 150 mg. Both candesartan and rosuvastatin taught in a combination formulation as disclosed above would preferably be in an amount of between

In the instant specification, applicants disclose an effective amount or suitable dosage as follows:

Suitable dosages of each component of the combination are those of the marketed commercial products. Alternatively, the synergy between the components may allow a lower dosage of one or both components to be used. For example, a dose of 4mg, 8 mg, 16 mg, 32 mg, or up to 160 mg of candesartan in combination with a dose of 80mg, 40mg, 20mg, 10 mg, 5 mg 2.5 mg of rosuvastatin may be used. It will be understood that any one of the doses of candesartan may be combined with any suitable dose of rosuvastatin.

In one aspect, 80mg of rosuvastatin is used. In another aspect, 40mg of rosuvastatin is used. In a further aspect, 20mg of rosuvastatin is used. In a further aspect, 10 mg of 20 rosuvastatin is used. In a further aspect, 5rag of rosuvastatin is used. In a further aspect, 2.5 mg of rosuvastatin is used.

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In one aspect, between 32 and 160 mg, such as about 64 to 128 mg, for example 64 to 112 mg, such as about 64-96mg of candesartan is used. Conveniently, about 72mg of candesartan is used. In another aspect, 32 mg of candesartan is used. In a further aspect, 16 mg of candesartan is used. In a further aspect, 8 mg of candesartan is used. In a further aspect, 4 mg of candesartan is used.

(page 4, 4th - 6th paragraphs).

Thus, the suitable dosages disclosed in the Robl reference make the suitable dosages of claimed invention obvious.

Robl teaches candesartan (col 37, line 19).

Robl teaches rosuvastatin (col 28, line 21).

Robl teaches the embodiments drawn to combination therapy in the treatment of atherosclerosis.

The embodiment cites thus:

Thus, where desired, the compounds of structure I may be used in combination with one or more hypolipidemic agents or lipid-lowering agents, or lipid agents, or lipid modulating agents, and/or one or more other types of therapeutic agents including antidiabetic agents, anti-obesity agents, antihypertensive agents, platelet aggregation inhibitors, anti-Alzheimer's agents, anti-dementia agents, anti-osteoporosis agents, and/or hormone replacement therapeutic agents, and/or other therapeutic agents, and/or other cardiovascular agents (including anti-anginal agents, anti-arrhythmic agents, anti-atherosclerosis agents, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-platelet agents, anti-heart failure agents), anti-cancer agents, anti-infective agents, hormone replacement agents, growth hormone secretagogues, selective androgen receptor modulators,

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and/or other therapeutic agents which may be administered orally in the same dosage form or in a separate oral dosage form, or by injection (col 28 , lines 33-49).

Further, in light of disclosure above, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of skill in the art to at once recognize a reasonable expectation of success directed to a method of treating atherosclerosis with combination therapy (candesartan and rosuvastatin) via the disclosure of Robl.

The scope and contents of the prior teaches a method of treating atherosclerosis with agents already art-known to reduce cholesterol. Combination therapy for hypercholesterolemia is also art-known. Candesartan and rosuvastatin have differing mechanisms of action as being part of two different and distinct classifications of drugs. Synergy is indicated as an obvious variant in the dual therapy treatments.

The differences in the prior art and the claims at issue is that candesartan is not taught in any direct combination with rosuvastatin. Instead the references discloses within such embodiments adequate suggestion, support, and direction toward combination therapy for atherosclerotic conditions.

Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness, the instant claim cites limitations that clearly indicate obviousness. As said above, concomitant therapy with two or more drug agents in order to control atherosclerosis is an art-known protocol of therapy. It would be well within the purview of the one of skill to conduct routine experimentation with variable combinations of angiotensin II receptor antagonists (of which candesartan is a part) and HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor (of which rosuvastatin is a part).

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Accordingly, it would have been obvious to try based on the knowledge that these two agents treat atherosclerotic conditions via spectrum therapy, i.e., dual mechanisms of action on the human body to treat atherosclerosis.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy E. Betton whose telephone number is (571) 272-9922. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30a - 5:00p. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on (571) 272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information

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about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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TEB

/Yong S. Chong/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1627